

Working to deliver affordable, quality, stable care for Illinoisans throughout the 11th District, Rep. Debbie Halvorson today announced her support for H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

"We are facing a health care crisis in our country right now, and a health care system that doesn't work for us," said Halvorson. "It doesn't work for so many of my constituents who have been denied affordable care because of pre-existing conditions, and it doesn't work for the millions who can't afford insurance or who are afraid of losing their coverage. After reading the bill and listening to my constituents, I believe that this legislation, as it stands, delivers on what H.R. 3200 did not; providing meaningful reform that lowers health care costs for families, expanding access to those who don't have it, while actually reducing the deficit by \$30 billion.

I was also one of the moderate Democrats who fought hard to make sure that any public option included in this bill would not be tied to Medicare rates, so that we could ensure good access to health care throughout my district.

We owe it to our families and our neighbors to provide the peace of mind and stability that will come from passing this legislation, and I look forward to supporting it. As the process moves forward, I'll continue reviewing the legislation and any amendments to make sure any changes to the bill meet these criteria."

The Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R. 3962, contains provisions that would:

- End co-payments for preventative care in Medicare,
- Close the Medicare Part D donut hole and lower prescription drug prices by 50%,
- Reduce the health care cost burden on small businesses, whose health expenses have grown almost 130% since 2000,
- Allow states to join together to permit buying insurance across state lines to increase competition,
- Create reform pilot programs to reduce frivolous lawsuits from entering the court system while preserving patients' rights and,
- Reduce the deficit by \$30 billion over the first ten years.

More information about the Affordable Health Care for America Act can be found on my website, halvorson.house.gov . This includes the full text of the bill and a section by section summary.

Below is a list of events Halvorson has held or attended that has allowed her to listen to her constituents and has provided her the feedback which has guided her intention to vote for H.R. 3962:

January 14, 2009: Meeting with representatives from Silver Cross Hospital

Congresswoman Halvorson met with Silver Cross Hospital representatives regarding charity care and veterans' health care in the Will County area.

February 4, 2009: Meeting with representatives from Riverside Medical Center

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from Riverside Medical Center to discuss health care legislation, including legislation to extend discounts for low-income individuals and broaden coverage for Medicare Part B recipients.

February 4, 2009: Meeting with representatives from OSF HealthCare

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from OSF HealthCare to discuss health care legislation, including nursing education legislation, Medicare coverage, and prescription drug coverage.

February 16 2009: Minonk Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Minonk where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

February 16, 2009: Peru Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Peru where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

February 16, 2009: Mendota Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Mendota where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

February 26, 2009: Meeting with Students of the American Chiropractic Association

Congresswoman Halvorson met with Students of the American Chiropractic Association who were in town for the National Chiropractic Legislative Conference. The visiting students offered ideas and insight into how chiropractors may be able to help contribute to health care reform.

March 7, 2009: Frankfort Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Frankfort where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

March 7, 2009: Crete Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Minonk where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

March 14, 2009: Kankakee Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Kankakee where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health

care reform, without an appointment.

March 14, 2009: Manteno Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Manteno where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

March 14, 2009: Grant Park Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Grant Park where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

March 25, 2009: Meeting the Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Network

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from the Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Network, to discuss federal funding for Alzheimer's research and services for individuals with Alzheimer's and other related dementias. The goal of the meeting was to raise awareness of resources and support for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers.

March 28, 2009: Princeton Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in Princeton where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

March 31, 2009: Meeting with the Health Care Council of Illinois

Congresswoman Halvorson met with individuals from the Health Care Council of Illinois to establish outreach with the health care community in Illinois. She discussed long term health care and listened to the goals and concerns of the Council.

March 31, 2009: Meeting with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents representing the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. She listened to their concerns regarding funding research for pancreatic cancer, and discussed H.R. 745, the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act. The Congresswoman is a co-sponsor of this legislation, which supports research and funding for pancreatic cancer education.

April 4, 2009: Mokena Chamber of Commerce Business and Health Fair Expo

Congresswoman Halvorson attended the Mokena Chamber of Commerce Business and Health Fair Expo. The Congresswoman discussed how health care reform will affect small business, and listened to constituents' concerns.

April 4, 2009: New Lenox Congress on Your Corner

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a Congress on your Corner session in New Lenox where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

April 6, 2009: Joliet Area Community Hospice Roundtable

Congresswoman Halvorson met with providers of hospice care in the Will County area for an informational session, and to listen to their concerns so that she could gain firsthand knowledge of the issues facing health care providers in the 11th District. The Congresswoman discussed addressing cost, access, and quality of health care with the providers at the roundtable session.

April 6, 2009: Tour of Will County Health Department

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the Administrative Services, Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, Family Health, and the Community Health Center divisions of the Will County Health Department. The Congresswoman learned about the successes and challenges facing the Will County Health Department in providing healthcare services to constituents.

April 6, 2009: First meeting of the 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Committee Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted the first meeting of the 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Committee. Participants included constituents and members of the health care community, including providers. The goal of the meeting was to establish the advisory committee and provide a forum to discuss health care reform.

April 7, 2009: Mendota Community Health Partnership Free Clinic Tour

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the Mendota Community Health Partnership Free Clinic. The clinic offers free dental service on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for children less than 18 years of age. Prior to the tour, Congresswoman Halvorson wrote a letter of support regarding a grant for which the clinic had applied.

May 6, 2009: Meeting with Cardiology Advocacy Alliance

Congresswoman Halvorson met with various doctors and members of the Cardiology Advocacy Alliance to discuss imaging access and reimbursement issues, as well as Medicare reform.

May 8, 2009: Chestnut Health Systems Tour

Congresswoman Halvorson met with representatives from Chestnut Health Systems to learn about their Housing and Urban Development program for the mentally ill and homeless in McClean County. In addition, she toured the adolescent treatment center, which provides housing and treatment for teens throughout the state.

May 13, 2009: Meeting with Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from the Respiratory Health Association of Chicago to discuss the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act and funding for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The group also recognized the Congresswoman's support of children's health care expansion through S-CHIP and the FDA regulation of tobacco.

May 13, 2009: Homecare Council Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from the Homecare Council to listen to their concerns and discuss homecare issues and health care.

May 26, 2009: United Cerebral Palsy Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives of United Cerebral Palsy to discuss the stimulus package, health care reform, and other various concerns of the group.

May 26, 2009: AARP Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from AARP to discuss their six health care priorities. Their priorities included guaranteeing affordable access to Americans between the ages of 50 and 64, closing the Medicare Part D coverage gap (often called the "doughnut hole"), expanding access to generic prescription drugs, and various other reforms of Medicare and Medicaid.

May 29, 2009: Morris Hospital Tour

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the facilities at Morris Hospital and participated in a health care roundtable discussion.

May 30, 2009: McClean County Aging Network Roundtable

Congresswoman Halvorson held a roundtable discussion with advocates and professionals in the aging network about the effectiveness of Programs and Services for Older Americans in Illinois, current challenges of providing services, projected growth of the aging population, and the emerging needs of older adults, family caregivers, and grandparents raising grandchildren in the 11th District.

June 16, 2009: New Democrat Health Care Briefing

Congresswoman Halvorson attended the New Democrat Health Care Task Force briefing on health care. This was the second in a series of Member discussions and briefings on health care. Members had an open dialogue on health care with representatives of the health care industry.

June 30, 2009: Health Care Group Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson met with various representatives from the health care community to discuss the Pathway for Biosimilars Act and her co-sponsorship of that legislation, which is aimed to make prescription drugs more affordable.

July 1, 2009: Saratoga Towers Senior Citizens Facility Tour and Discussion

Congresswoman Halvorson toured a senior citizen facility and discussed concerns regarding health care reform with constituents, patients and caregivers, especially prescription drug costs.

July 3, 2009: Tour and Meeting with Princeton Hospital Administrators

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the facilities of Perry Memorial Hospital and met with hospital officials and administrators to discuss health care reform.

July 11, 2009: Will County Health Department Community Health Center Visit and Check Presentation

Congresswoman Halvorson visited the facilities of the Will County Health Department Community Health Center and presented a check for \$949,090 of stimulus funds for the Health Department and Community Health Center.

July 15, 2009: E-Newsletter with Health Care Survey

Congresswoman Halvorson sent out an E-Newsletter to over 12,000 constituents with a survey asking them to report their thoughts on the ongoing health care debate. The Congresswoman received more than 3,000 responses that included stories from her constituents and their concerns about the current health care system.

August 5, 2009: Smurfit-Stone Workplace Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a town hall for Smurfit-Stone employees who are constituents of the 11th District to discuss health care reform.

August 6, 2009: State Farm Insurance Workplace Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a town hall for State Farm Insurance employees who are constituents of the 11th District to discuss insurance regulatory reform and health care reform.

August 19, 2009: Veterans Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a veterans' town hall with House Veterans Committee

Chairman Bob Filner. The forum focused on issues relating to veterans, especially health care.

August 19, 2009: Tour of Silver Cross Hospital with Chairman Filner

Congresswoman Halvorson and House Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Filner toured Silver Cross Hospital and discussed the possibility of converting the building into a Department of Veterans' Affairs medical facility once Silver Cross moves.

August 20, 2009: Seniors Health Care Tele-Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a telephone town hall for seniors on health care reform. She discussed health care reform legislation being considered in Congress, her views on reform, and addressed seniors' concerns regarding Medicare and health care reform. Participants were able to ask questions of the Congresswoman regarding specific issues and leave voicemails at the end of the call if any questions were not answered. Over 10,000 constituents participated.

August 21, 2009: Tour of LaSalle County Health Department

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the LaSalle County Health Department. The Congresswoman spoke with representatives and learned about the issues facing the Will County Health Department in providing healthcare services to constituents.

September 1, 2009: E-Newsletter with Health Care Update and Survey

Congresswoman Halvorson sent out a follow up e-Newsletter to her July 15th edition which updated constituents on issues discussed during August and provided another opportunity to register opinions about health care reform.

September 2, 2009: Heritage Manor Meeting and Tour

Congresswoman Halvorson met with health care representatives and constituents to discuss Medicare and Medicaid programs as they relate to seniors, geriatric care, and nursing homes. She also toured the facilities and visited patients of Heritage Manor Nursing Home, the Legacy Care Alzheimer's Unit and Evergreen Place Assisted Living facilities in order to get a firsthand look at the care of local seniors, rehabilitation, and Alzheimer's patients in McLean County. She responded to concerns regarding health care reform and how it relates to the senior and geriatric population, end of life counseling, and the preservation of Medicare and Social Security benefits.

September 3, 2009: Meeting with Illinois State Medical Society

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from the Illinois State Medical society and listened to concerns on health care reform from the physician and provider perspective.

September 3, 2009: Health Care Tele-Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a telephone town hall to discuss health care reform. Over 12,000 constituents participated in the call, which lasted for two and a half hours. 80% of participants in the live poll responded that they found the call useful.

September 4, 2009: Lunch with In-Home Care Nurses

Congresswoman Halvorson met for lunch with a group of nurses and other health care professionals to gain insight into in-home care and its role in health care.

September 4, 2009: In-Home Patient Visit

Congresswoman Halvorson visited in-home patients to discuss health care reform. She spoke with the patients about the care they've received at home and their thoughts on the health care system as they are experiencing it.

September 4, 2009: Tour of Ottawa Regional Hospital

Congresswoman Halvorson toured the facilities at Ottawa Regional Hospital and met with constituents, representatives, and administrative staff of the hospital to discuss health care reform.

September 9, 2009: Meeting with Health Care Professionals and Providers to the Uninsured

Congresswoman Halvorson met with health care professionals who treat the uninsured in McLean County in order to gain better understanding of how the uninsured are served in and affect our current health care system.

September 11, 2009: Regional Health Information Exchange Committee

Congresswoman Halvorson met with the Regional Health Information Exchange Committee to discuss efforts and opportunities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) and the Obama administration to establish electronic medical records that can be shared through health care providers.

September 23, 2009: Sinai Health Systems Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson met with constituents and representatives from Sinai Health Systems to discuss the role of hospitals in the current health care system and address the issue of uncompensated hospital care.

September 28, 2009: Legislative Breakfast with the Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a legislative breakfast in Kankakee, hosted by the Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce. The Congresswoman was the keynote speaker, and addressed a number of topics affecting small businesses, including health care reform, and took questions from the audience.

October 2, 2009: Small Business Tour in Shorewood

Congresswoman Halvorson toured small businesses in Shorewood and discussed the economy and the potential impact and benefits of health care reform with small business owners and employees.

October 3, 2009: Legislative Breakfast with New Lenox Methodist Church

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a legislative breakfast at New Lenox Methodist Church,

where the discussion covered a number of topics, including health care reform and the Congresswoman's thoughts on the reform effort.

October 5, 2009: Small Business Tour in Channahon / Minooka

Congresswoman Halvorson toured small businesses in Channahon and Minooka and discussed the economy and the potential impact and benefits of health care reform with small business owners and employees.

October 7, 2009: Health Care Tele-Town Hall

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted a telephone town hall to discuss health care reform. Over 3,000 constituents participated in the call.

October 10, 2009: Kankakee Area Community Office Hours

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted Community Office Hours in Kankakee where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

October 19, 2009: 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a meeting of the 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Committee meeting in Joliet. The committee meets regularly and functions as a resource for the Congresswoman on health care and what the attitude towards reform is in the district.

October 22, 2009: New Democrat Health Care Task Force Meeting

Congresswoman Halvorson attended the New Democrat Health Care Task Force meeting. She discussed small business-related provisions in current health care reform proposals

October 24, 2009: Joliet Area Community Office Hours

Congresswoman Halvorson hosted Community Office Hours in Joliet where constituents could speak with the Congresswoman directly about any issue, including health care reform, without an appointment.

October 31, 2009: Legislative Update at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

Congresswoman Halvorson attended a legislative update at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Bloomington, where she discussed her views on various issues, with a focus on the health care reform debate, and took questions from the audience.

